

REMARKS

In this Preliminary Amendment A, Claim 17 has been amended in order to more specifically claim the subject matter of the present invention, while claim 19 has been amended for purposes of clarification only. In addition, claims 26-28 have been added.

Support for the amendment to claim 17 can be found, for example, on page 37, line 11 to page 38, line 4 and page 40, line 1 of the specification. Support for the amendment to claim 19, wherein the first S was changed to Si, may be found, for example, on page 91 (e.g., Example 18). Finally, support for new claims 26-28 can be found in the specification, for example, in:

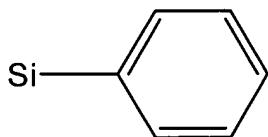
claim 26: original claim 17;
claim 27: page 37, line 11 to page 38, line 4; and,
claim 28: page 7, lines 23-26.

Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF SPECIES

In response to the Restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the claims of Group V (claims 17-25, along with newly submitted claims 26-28), and to cancel the claims of Groups I-IV (claims 1-16) without prejudice. Applicants hereby reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to any of the non-elected claims during the pendency of this application.

In response to the Election of Species requirement, Applicants hereby elect the following from each of the designated groups for initial examination, in view of the structure provided in claim 17: (i) C is oxygen; (ii) each of q , r and t are 1; (iii) L is



and, (iv) G is a nitrogen heteroatom. Accordingly, the elected species read on claims 17-20 and 22-28.

Finally, as to the meaning of "iniferter," Applicants respectfully submit this is a well-known term of art. "Iniferter" is commonly understood to be derived from the phrase "*initiator-transfer agent-terminator*" and refers to an initiator that induces radical polymerization that proceeds via initiation, propagation, primary radical termination, and transfer to another initiator. Additionally, Applicants would point to the general discussion related to this approach in the specification, for example, on page 39, line 6 to page 40, line 3, as well as Example 18.

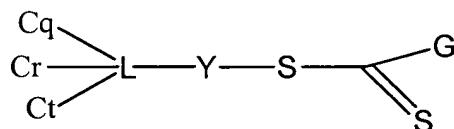
VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-16 have been cancelled.

17. (amended) A method of preparing a sensor for detecting a biological molecule in an aqueous sample, the method comprising:

bonding an iniferter initiator to a substrate surface at one or more points to form a derivatized surface, said iniferter initiator comprising an initiator-control agent adduct having the formula:



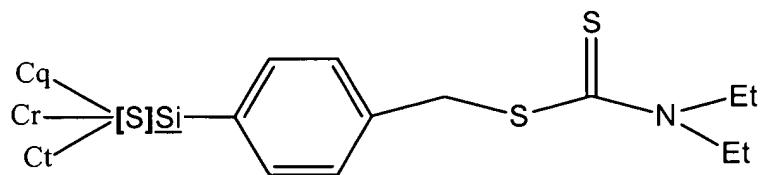
wherein C is a moiety on the surface of the substrate; L is a linker group capable of bonding to at least one C moiety; q, r and t are independently 0 or 1, provided the sum of q + r + t is at least 1; Y is a residue capable of initiating free radical polymerization upon [homolytic] UV initiated cleavage of the Y-S bond; S is sulfur; and, G is a nitrogen or an oxygen heteroatom;

contacting said derivatized surface with a composition comprising a water-soluble or water-dispersible free radically polymerizable monomer mixture, the mixture containing an acrylamide-based monomer and at least 1 other monomer, under reaction conditions to form bound polymer chains comprising a water-dispersible segment having a weight average molecular weight of at least about 1000 and one or more functionalized sites thereon, the functionalized site(s) being formed in its(their) active state for reaction with a probe selective for the biological molecule;

[separating unbound polymer;] and

bonding the probe to the bound polymer chains through the active functionalized sites.

19. (amended) The method according to claim 18 wherein said bound iniferter initiator comprises an initiator-control agent adduct having the formula:



wherein Et is ethyl.

Claims 26-28 have been added.

CONCLUSION

* Enclosed is a check for \$140.00 for the addition of a multiple dependent claim. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,



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